

Proposed Sanitary Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

an individual

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

Member of the public

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following; if you choose the first option, please provide your name or the name of your organisation as you wish it to be published.

I am content for this response to be attributed to me or my organisation

Please insert your name or the name of your organisation. If you choose the first option above, this should be the name as you wish it to be published. If you choose the second or third option, a name is still required, but it will not be published.

Avril Keenan

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Page 7: Your views on the proposal

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Fully Supportive

Q1. Which of the following best expresses your view of the proposed Bill?

Please explain the reasons for your response

It is something we debated 25 years ago in a group of women at work. I was a shy 17 year old with severe menstrual problems, my colleague much older yet still buying products 35 plus years down the line. We calculated the spend and were horrified. A huge discussion ensued about other things that were free in those days yet here we are with me at 45, currently unemployed yet still paying. I would love to see this necessity become freely available to all who need it like prescriptions.

Page 8: Universal provision of sanitary products

Q2. Do you think a universal, card-based system (modelled on the c-card system for free condoms) would be an effective means of providing sanitary products for free to those who need them?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

Seems like a good plan but sanitary products would need to be available more freely than the places you can use c-card. They take time to find... we don't always have time to plan for an emergency!

Q3. Which of the following best expresses your view in relation to a card-based system?

The card should be available to anyone; card-holders should have unlimited access to free sanitary products

Please explain the reasons for your response.

It is all down to the stigma of being poor... if every woman CAN have them free the stigma is removed. People who can afford that extra outgoing every month can choose to purchase their products if they want. Others can't and should be able to get them regardless.

Q4. Do you have a view on which locations would be most suitable for dispensing free sanitary products (e.g. GP surgeries, pharmacies, community centres, health clinics)?

That sounds like a fair plan but no offense GP surgeries etc are not easy to get access to on a weekend and also would be another stretch on NHS resources providing the space and staff to attend to this service provision.

Think it needs to be a more 24/7 provider.... similar to milk/fresh fruit tokens?

Page 11: Schools, colleges and universities

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response

Q5. Do you agree that there should be specific obligations on schools, colleges and universities to make sanitary products available for free (via dispensers in toilets)?

I would have died having to ask at school and would just walk out if caught unawares. So yes products made available without asking would be amazing especially in primary schools where I understand the need is more common than in my day (late 70s/early 80s)

Page 12: Personal experience (questions 6 and 7 are for individual respondents only)

Q6. Have you ever struggled to access or afford sanitary products during menstruation? (e.g. financial barriers, unexpected circumstances, health issues)

Yes, occasionally

Please explain or give an example of your experience if you feel able to do so.

As a teen my mum became a single mum due to divorce... we lived on little benefits and my mother had to be frugal. I got what I needed but probably at the expense of something else needed.

Q7. If sanitary products were available for free, which of the following would apply to you?

I would expect to claim free products regularly

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am currently unemployed struggling to find work with dwindling savings... £5-6 a month doesn't seem like much but it could be spent on more heat for my home.

Page 14: Financial implications

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost-neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Government and the public sector (e.g. local authorities, the NHS)		X				
(b) Colleges and universities		X				
(c) Businesses (including suppliers/retailers of sanitary products)			X			
(d) Individuals (including...)					X	

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

consumers of sanitary products)						
--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please explain the reasons for your response

I am sure the companies making them will figure out a way to not lose out... bulk deals on large orders and the usual price increase to the affording public is my guess

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Put government funding in to a company, offer incentives to lower prices? Not sure

Page 16: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Positive

Q11. In what ways could any negative impact of the proposed Bill on equality be minimised or avoided?

No Response

Page 18: Sustainability

Q12. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Unsure

Page 19: General

Q13. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

No Response